



A School | *a Home*

Boarding at Sandy Spring Friends School

Grades 9–12

Living at SSFS



Students who board at SSFS have an exceptional opportunity to extend their learning experience beyond the classroom to one of the nation's most vibrant cities and its surrounding region. The campus is remarkably well situated: it occupies 140 peaceful, rural acres in Sandy Spring, Maryland, yet is only 15 miles from Washington, DC.

Boarders are an integral part of the School's safe, close-knit community. As part of their residential experience, they put Quaker values in practice, cultivating respect and consideration for others, acting with integrity, and developing responsibility. Whether living in the campus residences or participating in a host family program, students build lifelong relationships with peers and faculty, gain rich understanding of people from diverse backgrounds, and develop valuable independent living skills that prepare them for college and the wider world.

In the Dorm*

Our dorm's 60 Upper School students and three resident faculty and staff create a rich and supportive environment for community life. The dorm is divided into "family groups" headed by a dorm staff member, who provides individual attention and care to the students. Students may receive academic help from teachers in the afternoons, and boarders attend student-proctored study halls on Sunday through Thursday evenings. Sunday night meetings keep the dorm community cohesive and informed of events and needs as they arise.

**Both five- and seven-day boarding options are available: five-day boarding students return home after classes on Friday and arrive back at school on Sunday evening, while seven-day boarders participate in a variety of weekend activities led by dorm staff.*



"Living in the dorm has made me a better person by being more emotionally connected to people and building genuine relationships with my peers. I am also able to work on my time-management skills."

—Sydni Butler, SSFS Student



Westview dorm provides a home for students on campus.



Students and their host families form strong bonds.



"Living with a host family helps with language and cultural barriers. You also have a safe learning environment. If you have difficulties, the family is always there to talk with you, support you, and encourage you."

—Bryan Zhu, SSFS Student

Host Family Programs

Our host family option is of particular value to many SSFS international students, who find it a welcoming transition to life in the United States. Students live with host families affiliated with the School, obtaining an immersive experience of daily life in an English-speaking household. Students and host families form strong bonds, as both share an interest in one another's culture and perspective on the world.

Our Boarding Community

Our boarding students come from all over the United States as well as 16 countries, including:

Spain Russia China EL SALVADOR Canada
BHUTAN Ukraine Mexico BURKINA FASO Japan Korea GHANA
Lebanon Serbia Croatia THAILAND Vietnam Italy

~100
of the 315 students in
Grades 9–12 are boarders.



United States Capitol Building
Washington, DC



Baltimore Orioles baseball
Baltimore, Maryland



Museum of Natural History
Washington, DC

On the Weekends

Sandy Spring's proximity to Washington, DC, makes a wealth of weekend activities available to students. Trips to the nation's capital have brought students to the Museum of Natural History and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and regional sports outings have included Baltimore Orioles and Washington Nationals baseball games. Other weekend activities range from coffee houses, dorm challenges, and community service projects to SAT courses, athletic competitions, and outdoor adventure trips—including hiking, rock climbing, and skiing. Boarding students have additional opportunities to interact with the broader SSFS community through celebrations, festivals, dinners, and assemblies throughout the school year.



Times Square
New York, New York



Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Washington, DC



The Adventure Park
Sandy Spring, Maryland



We're known as the Beests, short for wildebeests.

Athletics

► 12 interscholastic sports:

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Climbing
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Ice Hockey
- Lacrosse
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Track and Field
- Volleyball
- Wrestling

- Two gymnasiums, including an Athletic Complex with a fitness center and 40-foot climbing walls
- Conference competition in the Potomac Valley Athletic Conference



"Our athletics and physical education program complements the academic and spiritual life on campus and helps promote a sense of community, as well as providing opportunities for every student to realize his or her potential as an individual athlete and a team member."

—Steve Powers, Director of Athletics



The Arts

The SSFS culture encourages individual artistic expression. Students at all levels, from beginner to highly advanced, participate in our extensive offerings and can take advantage of our studio spaces and state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center. With a wide range of visual and performing arts classes from woodworking, photography, and ceramics to a storied dance and drama program, boarding students have extensive opportunities to exhibit, choreograph, and perform.



"The Performing Arts Department is a vibrant part of the greater school community. Students investigate ideas and celebrate each other's achievements in our robust theater, dance, and music programs."

—Hannah Kerr, Upper School Arts Department Head



The Community Play is a culminating event each year.

College-Bound Students

One-on-one college counseling sessions beginning junior year, regular meetings with families, and a series of college workshops help each student find the best college fit.

100%*

of students apply and are accepted to college

**Some students elect to take a gap year before college.*



SANDY SPRING FRIENDS SCHOOL

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Destinations

Sample colleges and universities attended by SSFS graduates, 2016–2018:

Amherst College
Brown University
Cornell University
Emory University
Georgetown University
Grinnell College
Hamilton College
Haverford College
Howard University
Johns Hopkins University
New York University
Smith College
Spelman College
Tufts University
University of California, Berkeley
University of Cambridge
Vassar College
Washington University in St. Louis